

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/588,499  
Response to OA dated April 10, 2009

**REMARKS**

Claims 11 and 13 are amended to be in independent form. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 10, 2009.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-13 and 15 are indicated as being allowable, if rewritten in independent form. As indicated above, Claims 11 and 13 are now in independent form. Allowance of Claims 11-13 and 15 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishibashi et al. (JP 2003-113673). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that in JP'673 the alleged first shearing force reinforced member (13) does not have formed thereon a "first base end fixation member" or a "first top end fixation member", each having a width larger than a diameter of the alleged first wire rod (13). Component (5) in FIG. 3 is a "lid" used for filling hole (12) with mortar (6) at location (x). The "lid" can then be removed.

It is respectfully submitted that the invention of Claim 10 is patentably distinct from the cited reference. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 20, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as

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being anticipated by Osaka (JP 2007-238690). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is distinct from the device of JP '690 in at least two respects. Firstly, the present wire rod is disclosed as being solid, and the alleged wire rod is hollow. Secondly, in the present invention the base end width broadening part of the insertion hole and the base end fixation member of the wire rod are located at a base end of the insertion hole. In JP '690, a base end width broadening part or base end fixation member are not found in the existing reinforced concrete structure (a). The alleged base end width broadening part and base end fixation member are found in a mortar layer (b). In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 2, 5, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaka in view of Tuska (U.S. Patent No. 3,599,379). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 22-24 depend from Claim 20, which are discussed above. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaka in view of Rossi (U.S. Patent No. 6,860,935). Reconsideration and removal

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of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1, which is discussed above. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi et al. (JP 2003-113673) in view of Andraet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,960). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 17 and 26 depend from Claim 10, which is discussed above. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Claims 1-7, 10-13, 15, 17 and 20-26 are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

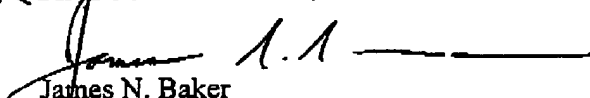
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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